

# PACIFIC

The joy of Bible studies  
Anderson retires as provost  
Volleyball claims region title

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

# president's message

D. Merrill Ewert



## In the classroom, on the court, around the campus—it's all education

*"God put people in my path for a reason."*

Those words turned a routine awards banquet into an unforgettable evening. With tears streaming down his face, a young athlete told about coming to play soccer at FPU and finding a mentor in coach Jaime Ramirez, becoming part of a winning team (which he called his "second family") and meeting the Lord. Although he aspires to play professional ball, the important thing was that God had changed his life at Fresno Pacific. Another athlete shared a similar story; he came to play soccer "and ran into God."

As I listened, I realized that something unbelievably profound had happened to these young men, and it wasn't about soccer. They were part of a team, learned discipline, developed leadership, found vocation and met the Lord. It happened through people—not only their professors but also their coaches and others with whom they lived, worked and studied. Another player captured the spirit of the evening: "There is more to life than soccer and I've experienced it here!"

Fresno Pacific University builds solid undergraduate and graduate academic programs on a foundation of ethical development. Challenging courses and effective faculty prepare our students for further education or leadership and service in business, education, the church, or human service agencies.

But opportunities for learning and growth extend far beyond the classroom. My own defining undergraduate experiences came through competing on the debate team, writing for the school newspaper and serving as a residence hall assistant. I have heard FPU students describe how singing in the choir, playing in a musical ensemble, participating in a club, acting in a play, representing the university on the court, or serving on the College Hour worship team taught them new skills and gave direction to their lives. For others, a part-time job on campus, volunteering as a tutor or extended conversations over a cappuccino in *Charlotte's Coffee Corner* are transformative moments.

A recent national study by GDA Integrated Services, a consulting and research firm, found that it's the total experience that makes college so important. Seven of 10 students reported learning as much from their non-academic experiences as they did through their courses. That's why we look not only to our faculty but also to coaches, club leaders, counselors, work supervisors, musical conductors and office professionals to mentor and model the Christian faith. Like the soccer player at the awards banquet, God puts them into our students' path for a reason. This is a Christian university where people come to study and learn; not surprisingly, they run into God in the process.



Fresno Pacific University exists to prepare students for faithful and wise service through excellence in Christian higher education, and to strengthen the church and improve society through scholarship and service.

PRESIDENT  
D. Merrill Ewert

VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
ADVANCEMENT AND  
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS  
Mark Deffenbacher

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS  
Diana Bates Mock

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Wayne Steffen  
wsteffen@fresno.edu

DESIGN DIRECTOR  
Gail Enns  
genns@fresno.edu

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS/EDITORS  
Kristin Deffenbacher  
Ken Isaak  
Kristen Kleyn  
Conlan Spangler

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS  
John Ervin  
Ken Isaak  
Conlan Spangler

Pacific is sent to alumni and friends of Fresno Pacific University and to members of the Pacific District Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches.

OUR MAILING ADDRESS  
1717 S. Chestnut Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93702-4709

Fax: 559-453-2033  
www.fresno.edu

Information 559-453-2000  
Alumni 559-453-2058  
Advancement 559-453-2080



# contents

PACIFIC MAGAZINE

## PAGE

### 9 Educating for life

Student life is more than an office or an add-on—it's a whole life

3 Transformed church leaders  
Ministry Forum speaker challenges pastoral and lay leaders

5 Professors of joy  
Faculty shape students with holiness and humor

14 1717 | In touch with alumni  
Karl Avakian's eyes sparkle with the memories of an alumnus and the vision of a board member

21 Sunbird athletics  
Students honored as scholars and athletes

## Capturing student life, and other impossible dreams

The easy way to write a story about student life is to go to the Student Life Office, talk to the dean for overall direction, get a copy of the goals/mission/vision statement, move on to the program directors to find out about implementation, generate a pile of notes and start writing.

Simple. Logical. Comprehensive.

Right up until I tried it.

Student life isn't just a noun; it's a verb and an adjective. It's all over the map, geographically, organizationally and linguistically. Areas separate on an organizational chart smear in real life. Don Sparks sums it up: "I tell people I have three part-time jobs."

Student life happens...  
on the Green at noon  
in the dorms past midnight  
in praise during College Hour  
at work in a campus office  
comfortably with friends laughing in the lounge  
lost and alone on page 5 of a 25-page paper  
on a bus on choir tour  
in a locker room after a game  
backstage during a play  
in classrooms in Fresno, Visalia and Bakersfield  
wherever in the world our students study and serve  
in front of friends, relatives and the world at commencement.

Whatever else student life is, it's impossible to confine in a story and cram into the pages of a magazine. So my apologies to Zenebe Abebe, our dean of students, who I interviewed but didn't quote; to everyone who I quoted but didn't do justice to; and to the folks who I didn't speak to at all because it would have required talking to everyone, and there is neither the time nor the paper to capture the subject in all its variety at Fresno Pacific University.

Please accept this slice of student life in the hope that that a quick glance will invite a closer look.

—Wayne Steffen



# Authentic leaders are transformed leaders

*Nancy Ortberg leads 2006 Central Valley Ministry Forum*

**T**ransformed leaders create “catalytic” churches that serve others and reach young and unchurched people. And authenticity is a key to transformation.

That was a message from Nancy Ortberg to the 2006 Central Valley Ministry Forum February 9 at Fresno Pacific University. She spoke to over 300 pastors and lay leaders in the Special Events Center and about 500 students, faculty and staff in a College Hour chapel. She also met with ministry students.

Now a writer, speaker and consultant, Ortberg led ministries to help people identify their spiritual gifts and for 18-20-somethings at Willow Creek Community Church, South Barrington, Illinois. Her consulting company, Teamworx2, is affiliated with Patrick Lencioni’s Table Group and applies his “Five Dysfunctions” model to churches.

For Ortberg, being authentic meant a friendly, informal speaking style, often leaning against the podium and illustrating her points by telling stories about herself—and frequently on herself. There were also breaks for activities around the tables and questions for the speaker, both Ministry Forum traditions.

Authenticity is not modeling behavior you don’t feel. “Sometimes we get so caught up in our role as leaders we start doing things on the outside,” Ortberg said.

Leaders must have a center with God, then they can connect people to God and shake them up the way Jesus did. “Jesus was a walking defining moment,” Ortberg said.

Services and gift discernment are the heart of leadership. “Our services ought to be creative and compelling,” she said. Ortberg described services built around the five senses, or that used a secular popular song to get young peoples’ attention. “Enter into their world,” she said.

Gift discernment is more than plugging holes in a schedule. Send someone who hates children into the nursery and they will be inoculated against ever serving again. People think “if I’m miserable, I must be in the center of His will,” she said. “What kind of face does that put on God?”

An 80-year-old woman came to Ortberg’s church after her former congregation let her know she was too old to take care of the children. “When we heard that, we bought her a rocking chair, put it in the nursery and told her we hope you die in this chair,” Ortberg said.

Everyone has their own burning questions, and their own, often unexpected, ways of sharing faith and joy. Quinn had more money than fulfillment. He couldn’t believe people would actually tithe 10 percent of their income. He asked around the church and found a number of people who did. “That was bedrock for Quinn,” Ortberg said. “He had a burning question: Does Jesus affect your life so that it changes the way you view money?”

A young woman had so struggled with depression she had scars on her wrists from suicide attempts. One day in church she asked Ortberg if God really always loved everyone in the tough times. “I

held her and whispered in her ear, ‘Honey, especially then,’” Ortberg said. The next week the young woman happily showed Ortberg her new tattoos—tattoos of the Hebrew word for grace that covered the scars.

To work with post-moderns, leaders must lose their assumptions. When she took over 20-something ministry as a 40-plus mom, members said they wanted older adult mentors. “I told them everything I had read about your generation says you don’t trust older people,” she recalled. “One said, ‘Why don’t you put down your books about us and listen to us?’”

Download audio recordings of the 2006 Central Valley Ministry Forum at no charge from [www.fresno.edu/ministryforum](http://www.fresno.edu/ministryforum).

**Forum sponsors were the Pacific District Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, One by One Leadership, Growing Healthy Churches, Northwest Church, California Plan of Church Finance, Inc., and Adrian and Julie Block, Kelowna, British Columbia.**

## faculty&staff

### FOCUS



**Anne Guenther's** memorial tribute to Steve Brandt, former director of library services, was published in the American Theological Library Association's Summary of Proceedings of the 59th Annual Conference, pp. 276-277. Guenther is director of reference and public services at Hiebert Library.



**Rod Janzen**, senior scholar, published "The Hutterites and the Bruderhof: The Relationship Between an Old Order Religious Society and a 20th Century Communal Group" in the October 2005 issue of *Mennonite Quarterly Review*. Janzen also gave a presentation, "Plain Christianity in the San Joaquin Valley," at the American Historical Society, Pacific Branch, annual meeting in August of 2005 at Corvallis, Oregon.



**Fay Nielsen**, associate dean of mentoring and retention, and **Melinda Gunning**, director of academic support services, presented at the local AMAE (Association of Mexican American Educators)

October 29, 2005. Their topic was the CLASS (College Language and Academic Success Strategies). Former Spanish faculty Isolina Sands also participated.



**Mark Deffenbacher**, vice president for advancement and university relations/executive director of the FPU Foundation, was named the 2005 Outstanding Fundraising Professional by the California Valley Chapter of The Association of Fundraising Professionals in November. It was noted at the presentation that under his direction the value of managed assets in the FPU Foundation has grown from around \$500,000 to more than \$47 million.



**Breck Harris**, business faculty, presented a paper titled, "the Power of Storytelling with Adult Learners" at the 25th Annual Adult Higher Education Alliance (AHEA) Conference October 7, 2005, in Boston. This paper was published as part of the AHEA Conference proceedings and placed for review on the ERIC database.



**Donna Callahan**, social work faculty, appeared on two episodes of "Forum for a Better Understanding" on KNXT-TV Channel 49. Both programs were a review of Building a Culture of Peace Week activities at FPU and California State University, Fresno. The episodes aired in October and November of 2005.

### LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO

The fall Mainstage production was a romantic comedy that went below the surface to examine cultures. *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* was



November 10-12 and 17-19, 2005, in Kriegbaum Hall Theater Lab. Set in Atlanta during the premier of the movie *Gone With the Wind*, the Tony Award-winning play looks at the budding love of a young couple and the process of assimilation into American culture. Players included Melody Whiteaker, Jacquelyn Hayek, Christopher Luzania, Kandi Grady, Stephanie Wiest, Patrick Martinez and Joshua Tolbert. Christien Sweeney was guest director.



### CASAS VISITS FPU

Representatives from Central American Study and Service (CASAS) visited FPU November 17 and 18, 2005. They spoke in classes and met with faculty and administrators about CASAS, a faith-based study-service organization based in Guatemala. CASAS is part of SEMILLA, the Latin American Anabaptist Seminary. Several groups of FPU students have participated in the agency's study abroad programs, living with host families and learning about language and culture. Above from left are Lucy Camel, coordinator of the CASAS Spanish school, and Carina Soderland, CASAS director.



# Finding joy in biblical studies

Faculty gets excitement across to students

By Kristin Deffenbacher

**F**our thirty on Tuesday afternoon and professors Greg Camp and Audrey Hinds laugh with student Brian DiPalma over one of many witty stories that punctuate their daily banter. The stereotype of the stuffy Bible teacher is crushed under the weight of the puns flying around the office and the jokes being shot through the open door by people passing by. Instead, the trio personifies the innovative, practical and relational view of biblical studies at FPU.

Whether meeting for dinner after work or editing an article over a cup of coffee, they exude a genuine enjoyment of each other and of life. “We are not isolated scholars,” Camp says. “We love movies, music and books. Those things are what keep us lively.” In class, “Virtually the whole Bible is open for discussion. What part of life isn’t touched by God? In general, we share our lives openly with our students, the good, bad, ugly and funny,” he adds.

Faculty buzz around the second floor of McDonald Hall, rather than repose in ivory towers. “Something is always going on, people in and out of offices talking,” Hinds says. Students find a place to talk about classes, tests and personal matters, or just to get a hug. “We don’t take ourselves too seriously, but we take our roles of teacher and guide seriously. We keep it all in perspective,” Camp says.

Hinds and Camp, both FPU alumni, possess all the official qualities required to teach Bible classes. Camp has a doctorate in New Testament from the University of Sheffield, England. Hinds has an M.A. in biblical languages from Graduate Theological Union, and she’s applying for doctoral studies. Their knowledge, passion and realistic approach draw students from all disciplines to think about how God and how God’s words speak to people today.

They focus on equipping servant leaders. “We teach biblical studies because we care about the church,” Hinds says. Most biblical studies students are involved in hands-on ministries on and off campus. DiPalma, a senior, is a youth pastor at College Community Church. Others work overseas, in prisons, prayer ministries and clubs.

DiPalma, Camp and Hinds put their hands and feet where their hearts are at Camp Keola at Huntington



Lake. Last summer Camp, the camp director, recruited Hinds and DiPalma to lead worship, counsel and speak. The three-week program for students from third grade through high school looked at how students can serve in their homes and communities. DiPalma described his experience at Camp Keola as challenging yet growing. “The first night was nerve-racking and scary, but it also gave me a lot of confidence in being able to speak to different groups,” he says.

Camp reaches into his own life to show students how to convert complicated information to modern-day experience. “I want to jar students out of their Bible class mentality,” he says.

Biblical text has the ability to shape a person’s character, DiPalma said. “A firm grounding in biblical text grows you as a person,” he added.

Hinds breaks the biblical studies stereotype by not only being young and female, but also by her creative teaching and thinking. This ingenuity is evident in her “Symposium on Old Testament Themes in Modern Cinema” where Hinds discusses the tale of Jonah, using *Finding Nemo*, *Pinocchio* and *Veggie Tales* for material. References to pop culture demonstrate documentary hypotheses and bridges the gap between the then and now. “I have a lot of fun with my classes, but I make them think hard,” Hinds says. Encouraging original projects and incorporating research into something fun attracts students to otherwise intimidating work. “How can you look at something with fresh eyes if you’ve become numb to it? I try to make it come alive,” she says.

“If I say I’m a follower of Jesus Christ, what does that look like every day? A lot of what we do in this department is to model for and learn from each other,” Hinds says. This legacy of servant leadership and fellowship comes from faculty emeriti Delbert Wiens, Edmund Janzen and Devon Wiens, continuing through Camp to Hinds, his former student, and through them both to DiPalma.

Fondness for knowledge, for one another and for students comes together in a celebratory faith that shapes character and spurs action. “I was shaped when I was a student at Fresno Pacific,” Hinds says. “The idea of servant leadership has driven what I’m all about.”

## Scholars Speak series connects academic study with community issues

by Conlan Spangler

Every week, over 70 Valley newspapers receive an article by an FPU faculty members. The Scholars Speak program addresses current issues—ranging from the war in Iraq to intelligent design theory to Congressional redistricting—from a research perspective. It is one way the university seeks to, in the words of program director Rod Janzen, “connect the world of scholarship to the community.”

Part of FPU’s mission is to be prophetic, noted President D. Merrill Ewert. “Being prophetic means that we speak out as Christians about issues,” he said. With these principles in mind, Ewert last year presented the concept to a group of faculty and board members. University Editor Wayne Steffen later coined the name, Scholars Speak.

Janzen was tapped to direct Scholars Speak as part of his assignment as university senior scholar. He solicits articles from faculty and encourages them to participate. “It’s time-consuming,” Janzen said, “but most people have thought it was a good idea.”

Each submission is sent to another faculty member or expert on the topic for suggestions. Articles are then returned to the writer, who may revise accordingly.

Once Janzen gives final approval, Steffen is in charge of distribution. After formatting and editing for newspaper publication, Steffen drafts a cover letter and faxes and emails each article to daily and weekly newspapers from *The Fresno Bee* to *The Manteca Bulletin*. The purpose, said Steffen, is to “get [Fresno Pacific] out there as a source of news.”

Many articles have been published in full in one or more newspapers. Others have been quoted in editorials. Sometimes a newspaper will not use a Scholars Speak, but will interview a faculty author for a news article on the topic. Editors also sometimes hold articles before using them. “These things reappear,” Janzen said. He and Steffen have called editors and received positive feedback. “They enjoy getting them,” Steffen said. All Scholars Speak pieces appear on the FPU website at [www.fresno.edu](http://www.fresno.edu).

Even on campus Scholars Speak is beneficial, according to Ewert. Faculty are interested in the work of their colleagues, and the series provides them with a “great opportunity to share research and build intellectual community on campus,” he said.

## Crosswind crosses musical boundaries

Fall 2006 brings a new choral and instrumental program to FPU. Crosswind is a contemporary music troupe of singers and instrumentalists who wish to learn more about contemporary Christian music and share it in churches and other venues. Repertoire will focus on fresh arrangements of classic hymns, praise, worship, multicultural, jazz and rock pieces and contemporary music by American and British composers.

“Fresno Pacific University has a strong music program and a long history of providing a quality higher education for their students,” said Milt Friesen, who joins the faculty as director of Crosswind. “We all know music plays a significant part in a well-rounded education. Crosswind will broaden students’ musical expertise, and play an important part in their chosen field of study.”



Milt Friesen



## MUSIC OF PEACE AND WAR

A concert served as the U.S. premier of a composition and a benefit for university music students. “Music of Peace and War” took place November 5, 2005, at College Community Church Mennonite Brethren, Clovis. The program featured “Chungking: May 5, 1939,” with music by Larry Warkentin, professor emeritus, and text by Herold Wiens. Proceeds went to the Dietrich Friesen Memorial Music Scholarship Fund. The event was hosted by the university’s Council of Senior Professionals. Performers were Mel Braun, baritone, and Laura Loewen, piano. Both are faculty members at the University of Manitoba. Warkentin taught at FPU for 40 years before retiring in 2002. Wiens witnessed the 1939 Japanese bombing of Chungking, China, in which 5,000 civilians were killed and more than 10,000 injured. The text is taken from a letter Wiens wrote his family. (From left, Loewen, Warkentin, Braun)





## City, state, national officials send good wishes to North Fresno Center

*More than 100 already pursuing bachelor's, master's degrees*

The university's newest regional center got a warm welcome from city, county and state leaders in education and government during an open house on Thursday, December 8, 2005.

Jerry Duncan, Fresno City Council member for District 6, which includes the center, called FPU "the premier higher education institution in Fresno."

Educators value FPU graduates because they have the right skills and "a good moral compass," said Peter Mehas, superintendent of Fresno County Schools. This blend of professional expertise and ethical development creates a "trust factor" that makes the university a "beacon of excellence," he said.

Duncan and Mehas were among 75 guests who toured the 5,877-square-foot center during the two-hour open house. Also joining FPU President D. Merrill Ewert, Provost Patricia Anderson and other university administrators, faculty and staff were representatives from State Senator Dean Florez, State Senator Charles Poochigian, State Assembly Member Mike Villines, State Assembly Member Juan Arambula, Congressman Jim Costa, Congressman Devin Nunes and Fresno Mayor Alan Autry.

Since classes began August 1 more than 100 students have begun working toward bachelor's degrees in business management or organizational leadership or pursuing a master's degree in leadership and organizational studies. The early childhood development B.A. program will begin in the fall of 2006. All programs are geared to working adults, with weekly evening classes and groups of students who study together throughout their program. (Above, Mehas chats in the center lobby)

## Anderson retires as provost, plans to stay active in education

*Accomplishments include academic restructuring*

*by Conlan Spangler*

After nearly 40 years of work in higher education, and four years at Fresno Pacific University, Provost Patricia Anderson has announced her retirement. In May, Anderson will step down after seeing the university through a period of unprecedented change, including a dramatic restructuring into four academic schools, and the geographical expansion of new regional centers.

Before coming to FPU, Anderson held administrative positions at universities including Michigan State and Azusa Pacific. Among her honors and awards are fellowships from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now the Department of Health and Human Services) and the National Institute of Mental Health. According to FPU President D. Merrill Ewert, Anderson is known within the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCCU) as the "provost of the provosts."

Anderson assumed her role in August 2002, only a month after Ewert became president. The two have worked closely together. "She's an outstanding leader," Ewert said, adding that in the West Coast higher education community, "everybody knows Pat Anderson." Part of Anderson's reputation stems from her work as a mentor to university administrators. She has brought "enormous credibility to Fresno Pacific," according to Ewert. While sorry to see her leave, Ewert is grateful for her contribution: "I feel deeply blessed that we were able to have her here."

One event during her time at FPU stands out for Anderson: Her eyes brighten and she straightens in her chair as she recounts the university's winning a \$1.3 million technology grant—a grant Anderson had worked hard to obtain. "I remember sitting there," she said, describing the day she found out the application was approved. "It was 4 o'clock." Her fingers traced a rectangle in the air as she described the "skinny, brown envelope" that bore the good news.

Anderson has only praise for the institution she will leave behind. She described the campus as a "community that values excellence and Christian understanding." As the only Christian university in the region, she said FPU provides all manner of students with a unique, quality education that "integrates Christian understanding with academics." She foresees a bright future for the university, with more students, and more diverse students, populating new residence halls and classroom buildings. "[The Fresno Pacific] of 2015, 2020 will be incredibly beautiful, serving students," she said.

Although also bright, Anderson's future is far from relaxing. She and husband John, a pastor, will split their time between homes in Arizona and Vancouver, Washington, where their son lives with his family. Anderson's daughter lives in Nebraska with her family. Anderson will continue to teach online courses in childhood development, and remain active with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, an accreditation organization. She hopes to participate with her husband in interim pastorates. "God has brought me to the most amazing places," she said. She trusts God will continue leading her.





## Graduates called 'great'

The speaker brought a welcome message to FPU's fall commencement December 16.

"You're great, because God says you're great," Pastor Paul Binion, II, said during evening ceremonies in the campus Special Events Center. But he did carry a caveat: "Great" does not mean "greatest." Those who use that term are speaking of a clique. "And it's too often a clique of one," Binion said. The truly great welcome all because they know what they have comes from the Lord. God's great also refuse to settle for average or fair-to-middling. In it all, there is purpose. "Your greatness will show the Lord off," he said. Binion is senior pastor at Westside Church of God.

In all, 40 students received master's degrees and 130 received bachelor's degrees. One student earned an associate degree. Lily Spees, B.A. graduate, and her father, H. Spees, lead pastor at Northwest Church, read the Scripture. The invocation was by Bob Croft, B.A. grad and general manager of KDUV Christian radio and president of Community Educational Broadcasting.



Greg Camp speaks to conference.

## Conference celebrates connection between PDC and FPU

"Celebrating 25 Years of Partnership" between the Pacific District Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and FPU was the title of a November 4, 2005, banquet in the Special Events Center.

The banquet was part of the PDC conference, which took place November 4-5 on the campus. The title is in reference to the district's 1979 official acceptance of FPU (then Fresno Pacific College) as its regional school. "To the College's President, Edmund Janzen, the faculty, the staff and the student body, we pledge our prayers and guidance," stated the declaration.

Janzen, president from 1975-1985 and faculty from 1968-2003, was banquet speaker. Students and alumni also made presentations, and FPU instrumental and vocal musicians performed.

The Pacific District Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches includes 121 congregations from California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona and Utah.

## ONE-ACTS LAMPOON THE BARD

The one-act play program for 2006 was *Shakespeare and his Women*, featuring "The Dark Lady of the Sonnets" and "When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet." The production took place February 17-18, in the Theater Lab in the basement of Kriegbaum Hall. Cast members included (photo at left, left to right) Amanda Rye and Pam Huffman and (photo at right, left to right) Elizabeth Hewitt, Caitlin Sanders (kneeling), Bethany Barnes, Donna Carr, Huffman and Rye. (photos by Conlan Spangler)





# Student Life

*At Fresno Pacific University, it's everything*

by Wayne Steffen

**S**tudent life: The phrase covers everything students do from the time they set foot on campus until they leave as alumni.

Usually understood within academia as what happens outside class and often alliteracized into phrases like "Beyond the Books," it is sometimes the poor stepsister of education.

At Fresno Pacific University, student life is more than an add-on to academics—it is an equal partner, surrounding and supporting students as they pursue the educational challenge, professional preparation and ethical/spiritual development that make a total experience.

Student life is a whole life.

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Academic support is the other side of academic challenge. Students who struggle usually do not lack ability, they lack tools and skills—tools and skills that can be taught.

Teaching those tools and skills is the assignment for Fay Nielsen, associate dean of mentoring and retention; Melinda Gunning, director of academic support services; and Don Sparks, assistant dean of student development programs.

The best first step for new students begins three weeks before their freshman year with the CLASS (College Language and Academic Success Strategies). Administrated by Nielsen and taught by Gunning, the CLASS meets for 20 hours a week. Students learn how to take a test, how to take notes, how to manage time and how to work with faculty and staff. "We talk about the



adjustment to college," Gunning said. "Many of them have never taken notes and in college you live and die by your notes."

Everyone can benefit from the CLASS. "Those who struggle in high school didn't have these skills," Gunning said. "Those who did well in high school have another problem—they got by on pure brains."

"We want the students to start off right," Nielsen said. "The literature shows that students who are engaged in the first four weeks stay." "Engaged" means a student connects with a faculty member, makes a friend and begins to learn to navigate campus.

Sparks crops up across student life. Students with disabilities who want help apply to Sparks, who works out a plan for service. "We're responsible to make reasonable

accommodation for students who are otherwise qualified to be here. The existence of a disability can not have an effect on the decision to admit," he said. Allowing extra time on tests is the most common accommodation, along with providing test readers and scribes and special materials like books on tape.

In the fall of 2005 Sparks worked with 23 students, but not all qualified students apply for help. "A lot of times students just want to do things themselves," Sparks said. "They just want to try."

Gunning helps students do more than try in the Center for Writing and Learning. The center, she hastens to point out, is not just a place to improve writing. "We do a whole lot more," she said.

Student tutors help their colleagues with subjects as varied as



mathematics, biology, chemistry and Spanish. Staff also give make-up tests and specially formatted examinations for students with learning disabilities.

Most writing tutors are not English majors, which Gunning calls a strength. "We are supporting writing across the curriculum, not just in written communication or English," she said.

Wise students come to the center before they are sent. "It takes a very

Any student who falls seriously behind will see Gunning and Nielsen. Gunning provides academic coaching to those on academic probation. Nielsen meets with students who plan to withdraw. "I try to find out what the problem is," Nielsen said.

Some students lack reliable transportation, or an understanding of the work required to get a college degree. Others juggle off-campus jobs. "There are many different reasons to be on probation," Nielsen said. With a little help, some students stay.

Students are academically disqualified if their GPA drops below 2.0 for two semesters or below 1.0 for one semester. A C-minus is 1.7 on FPU's four-point scale. About 50 students are academically

disqualified each semester, but Nielsen sees good news in that statistic. "That number has stayed the same while we've gone from 600 (traditional undergraduate) students to 1,000," Nielsen said.

On the other end of the spectrum, Nielsen is co-sponsor, with Richard Rawls, director of Hiebert Library, of the FPU chapter of Alpha Chi, the national honor society. Three

students gave papers at this year's regional conference in February at the University of La Verne. Others have won awards at the national conference.

Whether athletes or non-athletes, used to success or acquainted with struggle, students learn skills that serve them well beyond commencement. "I'm still taking notes today—I go to meetings, I take notes; I go to conferences, I take notes," Gunning said. "Unfortunately, we still have to take tests for the rest of our lives."

## PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

A career is more than a diploma and a grade-point average.

"[Employers] want exceptional college graduates that demonstrate a professional skill level, a strong work ethic and a commitment to stay with an organization," according to Alicia Andrade, director of career services.

This is often a surprise to new grads, she added. "Students think that all they need is a degree."

Enter the Career Services Center. "Our mission is to assist in career planning and career preparation for all students and to provide a premier job search service for all students and alumni," Andrade said. The center offers websites, books and other publications on career fields and job listings. There are also seminars and other activities on resumes, interview skills and workplace etiquette.

On a given day more than 6,700 jobs and internships are available in the Valley. "That includes all majors," she said.

Andrade is involved in efforts to find and create more jobs and internships. She belongs to the Fresno Area Regional Jobs Initiative and the National Association of Colleges and Employers, attends events such as the Valley Business Conference and visits employers and potential employers. "Anything I can do," she said.

An internship is a great bridge between being a student and being



savvy student to say, 'I need help.'" Gunning said. And everyone needs help with something. "A student can be quite successful in one area and struggle with another," she added.

No one is more thrilled than Gunning that her own tutors are the ones most likely to ask for writing help. "As good writers, they learn they need feedback," she said.

A new feature attracted a new audience to the center. An athlete's study hall was begun last fall. All athletes attended in the first semester, and those whose grade-point average fell below 3.0 were required to continue in the spring. "It has really increased use of the writing center," Gunning said.

Using the center for the study hall helps integrate athletes into campus life, rather than setting them off in their own area, as happens at some schools. "They're just students like everyone else," Gunning said. Though athletes were chosen first due to their practice and travel schedules, Nielsen would like to see the program extended to other groups.





an employee. "Students who have that work experience will get jobs faster, sometimes even before they graduate," Andrade said.

In evaluating careers, students should start with a goal beyond just finding a job, any job. They need to examine work environment and location. "There are a lot of realities they haven't considered yet. It's our job to give them that dose of reality so they're not in shock," she said. "I give them information, it's their decision."

Employers like leadership experience, and leadership training is a hallmark of FPU. On the professional preparation side, Don Sparks is in charge of student leadership programs. He coordinates the hiring of residence assistants and mentor's assistants and organizes the fall retreat for them and other student leaders, such as Student Executive members.

Sparks also takes students to the annual Spring Student Conference on Racial Reconciliation at Biola University. "I organize that trip and get as many students to go as I can," he said. One stop is the Museum of Intolerance. "That place is awesome," Sparks said. "Scary."

Future goals include adding a leadership program for students of color. The number of these students in leadership fluctuates and does not

always reflect the diversity of the student body as a whole. Sparks is working with ethnic-based student clubs on the issue.

Most FPU students come from the Valley, and most build their careers here. But all students can benefit by studying somewhere else. "I tell students, if you come see me I'm going to tell you to go away," jokes Arnie Prieb, director of the International Programs & Services Office (IPSO).

Options include semester-long and summer study abroad, as well as experiences in other parts of the United States and California. The Student Life Office, home to IPSO since the summer of 2005, wants more students to take part. "We're at about 5 percent. We'd like to bump that up by 2010 to 25 percent," Prieb said.

Since 2000-2001 an average of 15 students spend a semester off campus, and 25 go on summer trips. There is no lack of interest. "Lots of students want to go," Prieb said.

Money is the challenge. Semester-long trips cost the university an average of \$12,000-13,000 in lost revenue since the sponsoring organization gets tuition and other funds, not FPU. Students can take only \$1,800 in institutional aid with them. This affects many of the best and brightest, such as President's Scholars, who get large grants from the university.

Prieb is pushing summer study as an effective alternative. These experiences last weeks instead of months and cost \$2,500-3,500, so more students can go for the same budget.

Summer trips are often led by FPU faculty with expertise in that

country. Recent excursions have been to Vietnam, Japan and Ukraine, with plans in the works for Great Britain, Guatemala and Greece.

Whether they go across the state or around the world, experience with other cultures gives students a maturity that enriches their whole life. "Sending students abroad is important because they...broaden their worldview," Prieb said.

## ETHICAL/SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The ethical and spiritual dimension of education is the foundation on which knowledge and skills rest.

That statement has been true since Pacific Bible Institute opened in 1944. The fall 2005 reorganization of FPU into four schools based on academic disciplines, however, changed the way the university looks at spiritual development. How, for example, do the needs of students in the School of Business, working adults as well as 20-somethings, differ from those of the old undergraduate college, where students were closer in age but more varied in interest?

Rod Reed, campus pastor and dean of spiritual formation; Suzanne Blalack, College Hour (chapel) coordinator; Rici Skei, director of student ministries; and Dina Gonzales-Piña, assistant dean for multicultural ministries, have wrestled with these questions since the Office of Spiritual Formation was formed in August.





While the staff is charged with coordinating efforts in this area, Reed insists integrity and faith is everyone's responsibility. "Our job is to help create an environment that helps create spiritual growth," he said. "Now what we're looking at is how do we partner with and provide resources for the variety of places and people who influence students."

In the old days the campus pastor and staff created programs and implemented them. Now Reed



is working with university centers in Fresno, Visalia and Bakersfield to serve working adults in graduate and degree-completion programs. "How do we help the regional centers help their students?" Reed asked.

Not that programming is over. College Hour, Bible studies, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, community service projects, mission trips and ministries for men, women and various other groups are still active—though some have a new look: Skei organized a Gospel Choir and Gonzales-Piña is building worship teams of Hispanic, Slavic and other ethnic groups.

Then there's Man Camp. In February about 70 male students and Reed scaled the foothills to Oakhurst for three days of manly talk, manly games and, of course, a manly

meal. "It was basically big piles of shredded beef and potatoes," Reed recalled. Once fortified, discussion and worship probed issues guys face. A major point was the differences between guys and men. "Being a man is stepping up to make the right choices," Reed said: choices in relationships, choices in identity and choices in purposeful life.

One area spiritual formation will connect with more directly is residence life. Pam Schock is director of residence life and housing and is also transforming her work to better develop students as whole adults.

"I'm trying to change how we see the residence halls," she said. Traditionally universities took over the parents' role, watching out for students by making rules for them to follow. Schock's method is to "go alongside" students and support them in ways that help them mature. "There's still a foundation of biblical principles," she said.

While residence assistants (RAs) and residence directors (RDs) do keep an eye out that students go to class and maintain standards about visiting hours and other behavior, the tone is different. "It's more a big brother or big sister thing," Schock said. "Students can come and go much more freely now."

With freedom comes the need for students to manage themselves and understand others. Differences as everyday as a first roommate, deciding how neat is neat enough and how late is too late require a willingness to work with others. "The biggest questions are are you willing to take responsibility and are you willing to make it right," Schock said.

Three full-time, live-in RDs and 24 RAs organize Bible studies, accountability groups, guest speakers and other activities that combine socializing with learning to draw in as many students as possible. "The overall goal is creating...a place where everybody fits," Schock said.

Community for students who do not live on campus is physically

centered in the Commuter House. A residence owned by FPU and located on the campus, the house features a full kitchen, snack bar and study area. Bible study and academic workshops are presented by university faculty and staff. About 70 students use the house each day, according to Dave Sadler, coordinator of commuter and re-entry services. "The Commuter House is our flagship."

To make their voices heard, nonresident students have the Commuter Council and elect one of five voting seats on the Student Executive. "Our ultimate goal, really, is to make it so commuters are integrated with the entire campus," said Sadler, who is encouraged that more nonresident students are using the Cecil and Janet Hill Student Center in Alumni Hall and the Warkentine Lounge and Game Room in Steinert Campus Center.

Though behavior issues are different between commuters and resident students, the discipline process for both addresses both behavior and relationships. Don Sparks used to be the Lone Ranger. A complaint came in, he investigated, held hearings and handed out consequences. All he lacked was a sunset to ride off into.

The revamped system went into effect in the fall of 2005 based on the principles of restorative justice and created with the university Center for





Peacemaking and Conflict Studies. CPACS staff members have set up victim offender resolution programs in the Central Valley and have traveled the world to make just peace in areas of war and conflict. Having them visit Spark's office in Steinert Campus Center, "seemed like kind of a no-brainer," he said.

Restorative justice is based on bringing people together to make decisions and rebuild relationships that actions have damaged. The focus is to find concrete ways—apologies, promises not to repeat behavior, service related to violation—that help the victim and bring the offender back into the community. The process is used in criminal justice and other organizations, but is usually an alternative to typical systems based on punishment.

RAs and RDs are trained to address problems in the residence halls. "We're really trying to stress restoration among students before it becomes a disciplinary situation," Sparks said. Violations that go further are referred by Sparks to CPACS and a conference is set up that includes accused offenders, direct victims, others affected by the actions, the area RA, sometimes a security officer and the area RD or someone from student life—not Sparks.

All sides usually agree on what happened. In cases where they don't, or any time an accused student prefers, complaints can still go through the judicial board for traditional findings of fact. The resolved issue can then go back to the restorative system for resolution.

Of 10 discipline complaints that came to Sparks in the fall semester, nine went to the restorative system and one to the judicial board. "Under the old system some of those would have gotten dealt with quicker, but not as effectively," he said.

"The power of the whole restorative justice thing is the people's participation in making things right," Sparks said. More involvement leads to more

creative solutions. The peer-to-peer communication promotes freer participation and lessens intimidation and defensiveness.

Sparks has hung up his mask and melted down his silver bullets.

"I support the process; I'm not the process," he said.

A process for holistic development supported by many people—it's the definition of student life.

## Co-curriculars support student success

The arts, athletics and clubs provide participants a place to hang out, a group to hang out with and a lifetime of memories and friendships. But there's more.

Co-curriculars deepen the lessons learned in the classroom. Athletics and music each involve close to 200 students, nearly 20 percent of traditional undergraduates. The Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) chapter has competed nationally for the last four years.

Wayne Huber, music professor; Dean Gray, accounting faculty and SIFE sponsor; and Dennis Janzen, athletic director and head volleyball coach, talk about what co-curriculars mean to students.

### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

*Janzen:* "The skills inherent to being a successful athlete are the same skills needed in life in terms of discipline, time management and commitment. One of the ironic benefits of travel in athletics is that you have a lot more study time. Laptops, textbooks and Hi-lites—that's the norm on the bus. They're not watching movies."

*Huber:* "Music has a much higher retention rate than the campus average. Our students are some of the better students. Music requires discipline and responsibility."

*Gray:* "For the competition we went to in January in Reno, some of the students were in my personal finance class. Our SIFE team came in second. Here we were directly competing against three state universities and we beat them. That's just one story."

### PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

*Huber:* "(Majors) get the opportunity to perform and learn the literature that the big boys do. (Non-majors) learn discipline and responsibility. I think music is a little like surgery, you really have to pay attention to detail."

*Janzen:* "There is some level of prestige in our society in being identified as a successful college athlete. A lot of employers know FPU."

*Gray:* "Two accounting majors presented last year at the SIFE nationals in Kansas City. That opened doors for them. When both those students were being interviewed, SIFE was on their resume. I'm sure that helped them get the jobs they have (in the local office of a big four accounting firm)."

### ETHICAL/SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

*Gray:* "Business is a mission field. In one of my classes we viewed portions of the Enron movie, and my, you can just draw all kinds of ethical and spiritual conclusions from that. That's where Fresno Pacific has an edge, because we can talk about this from a spiritual vantage. You have to have the foundation to be ethical."

*Huber:* "The greatest music of all history is sacred music. And we don't just touch on it; we do a lot of it. Students are touched spiritually...it's part of the overall experience. It is a mentoring thing. In music you work so closely with each student. There is a definite bonding."

*Janzen:* "Not all that come to Fresno Pacific as athletes are Christians, but it is our expressed goal that they leave as professing Christians. I've been very pleased over the years to see the kind of influence our coaches have on our athletes. We are also a program center for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Champions of Character program. If a team is successful, the way athletics is valued in our society, that enhances the platform from which to proclaim the Gospel."



# Karl Avakian has seen FPU grow

*through the eyes of a student and board member*

by Kristen Kleyn

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### KARL AVAKIAN

PBI 1959  
FRESNO,  
CALIFORNIA

Karl Avakian loves to tell stories. And a rich setting for some of his stories is Fresno Pacific University, the place he has seen grow and take on new shapes for nearly 50 years. From Pacific Bible Institute (PBI), where he was a student in the 1950's, to Fresno Pacific College and Fresno Pacific University, where he serves as a board member, Avakian sees patterns, and is excited.

Avakian speaks of everything with eagerness, and FPU is no exception. A minister, he can't resist slipping into a sermon.

"The school is an extension of Christ," he says. He believes that as an instrument responds to every delicate touch of the musician's fingers, so the university responds to God and extends His work to the world. Avakian talks of classmates who became missionaries in Armenia, or entered the medical field. "That's the way we're supposed to be," he says, shaking his index finger in a serious gesture. "Do not allow the world to squeeze you into its mold."

A strong framework of faith built from youth is how Avakian has resisted that mold. He grew up in Egypt in an Armenian family, where his grandfather was a lay minister. "He died when I was five years old," Avakian says. "And he had prayed that I would be a minister." Avakian accepted Christ at age 19, and committed his life to ministry a year later. After hearing about PBI from a

former pastor, he traveled halfway across the world to Fresno to study Christian theology.

One vivid memory is the day he and friend Eddie Kalfayan first arrived at PBI. "September 22, 1957," Avakian says promptly and with a smile. "We had just come from Egypt the day before."

The PBI of Avakian's memory was made up of 80 students who met for classes in a brick building on Tuolumne Street in downtown Fresno. In 1957, Avakian walked three miles from his lodgings to his classes, played tennis for the institute in Roeding Park and sang in the school choir.

But it was the professors at PBI that made a lifetime impression on Avakian. "I was amazed at the willingness of the teachers to sacrifice," he says. "They were so committed. It was more than just a job for them—it was their life."

Names and faces stand out in his mind. Phyllis Martens spent extra time outside class helping Avakian over the hurdles of English pronunciation. History professor William Bass paid the fee for the choir tour Avakian couldn't afford. "They went beyond the call of duty," he says.

Avakian married his wife Nancy in 1963, and they have two children: Laura, 38, and David, 34. After Avakian graduated from MB Biblical Seminary, he became the Christian education director at Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church in 1966. He received his

ordination in 1979 and moved to New Jersey to be a full-time pastor. In 1988, Avakian was elected moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, serving 24 churches in the United States and Canada. He became conference minister for the Union in 1990 and held the post until 2004.

During the years of ministry, Avakian's contact with FPU did not fade. "When I became moderator, Gary Nachtigall [former athletic director and geography faculty] called and declared me alumnus of the year," he says. Avakian returned to Fresno, and joined FPU's board in 1990.

As a board member, Avakian adds to his history with the university. "I've been here 47 years and I've seen the changes," he says. And from his perspective, the good things he had as a student have endured. "It is a wonderful experience to be able to go to a school where you have outstanding teachers who care," he says. "I've seen that as a constant."

Pat Evans, executive pastor of New Harvest Church and FPU board member since 1991, believes that in addition to knowing the past, Avakian brings steadiness and laughter to the board. "He has a wonderful sense of humor," Evans says. "Sometimes you need to see the twinkle in his eyes to catch the dry wit. I think he's a wonderful, loving, caring man."

"I've come to know Karl as a very gracious individual," says Eugene Enns, FPU board member for 20 years and owner/partner of Enns Packing. "He has the right amount of persuasive ingenuity."

"Karl is a unique person in that he has this capacity to move in other groups without losing his identity," says Dalton Reimer, faculty emeritus and senior associate at the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies. Reimer has known Avakian during his PBI days. "He is an easy person to embrace because of who he is, his good cheer," Reimer says. "He's a transparent person."

"There is no guile in him," Evans says. "I'd like to play poker with him. He doesn't have a poker face."

One thing Avakian has greatly enjoyed as a board member is watching new buildings go up. He remembers the founding of Marpeck, McDonald Hall and East Hall. For the dedication of East Hall, the board climbed to the roof. "They asked me to pray," Avakian says, "and I suggested singing. We sang the Doxology on the top of East Hall."

As Avakian continues his stories of what he's seen at FPU, he settles into a still, solid excitement. "I'm so overwhelmed with joy at what we've built here," he says, leaning forward in his chair, eyes twinkling behind glasses. "We've become stronger; we're a better people."

And Avakian knows, because he has been one of those people. "I have lived through the changes," he says. "That's quite the remarkable thing."



*Avakian, far right, was instrumental in bringing a leader of the worldwide Christian church to FPU. His Holiness Aram I, seated at center, is Catholicos of the Holy See of the Great House of Cilicia, and moderator of the World Council of Churches. Aram heads a branch of the Armenian Orthodox church.*



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

*All FPU Alumni Board is pleased to honor  
**Dr. Donald Gregory (BA '75)**  
as 2006 Distinguished Alumni*

*The university and the Alumni Advisory Board are excited  
to continue honoring our top alumni.*

*Past recipients are:*

*Ron Claassen, Jean Janzen, Dr. David Pauls, Karl Avakian, Jim Holm,  
Bernard Wall, Olive Warkentin Hiebert, Pakisa Tshimika and Arthur McDonald.*

*For more information about the Distinguished Alumni Award  
visit the alumni association website at [www.fresno.edu/dept/alumni](http://www.fresno.edu/dept/alumni)  
or contact Nicole Linder at 559-453-2058.*

## PHONATHON TOPS SCHOLARSHIP GOAL



The annual Alumni Scholarship Phonathon again exceeded its goal, raising \$51,256 in 21 nights, October 17 through December 8. Students made 16,698 calls and welcomed 125 new donors. Callers also took time to discuss university happenings, what's going on in their lives and take prayer requests. For the 2005-2006 school year, \$69,000 in scholarships went to 68 students. "We're so thankful to everyone who gave," said Nicole Linder, co-director of alumni and church relations. "Without these scholarships, many students could not attend FPU."

Student callers were Brisa Amezcuita, Dayshia Boykins, Bryan Feil, Kim Ford, Mandie Hardy, Sandra Her, Blanca Lopez, Phillip Mackey, Sarah McComb, Grant McCracken, Scott Metcalf, Javon Morris, Franchesca Perkins, Marianela Rodriguez, Andrea Soria and Maria Villaseñor.

## BIRTHS

**Dee (FS '73 Gaede)** and Roger **Patrick** announce the birth of granddaughters Mya Lewis on June 4 to their daughter, Cari Lewis, and her husband, Tim, and Krista Patrick on July 26 to their son Dave and his wife, Bobbi. They join Amanda Patrick, 4, daughter to Dave and Bobbi.

**Richard (BA '87)** and Janita **Rawls** announce the birth of Kierstin Alexandra on September 12, 2005. She weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 20-1/2 inches long. She joins Jonathan, 11. Richard is the director of the Hiebert Library and Janita is dean of the FPU School of Business.

**Dina (BA '90 Gonzalez)** and **Xavier Piña (MA '05)** announce the birth of twins Samuel Nicholas, 4 pounds, 8 ounces, and Rebecca Elisa, 4 pounds, 14 ounces, on January 25, 2006.

**Kevin (BA '93)** and **Michelle (BA '94 Weigandt) Miller** announce the birth of Kyra Joy on May 31, 2005. She joins brother Toby, 3.

**Curtis (BA '94)** and Sandra **Moore** announce the birth of Evan Moore on November 20, 2004. He joins Connor.

**Andrew (BA '95)** and **Rosangela (BA '96 Esau) Wisley** announce the birth of Nicholas Andrew. He joins Isabelle.

**Guadalupe (BA '95 Garcia)** and Mario **Andrade** announce the birth of son Angel on September 22, 2005.

**Kristine (BA '95 Steinert)** and John **Reichel** announce the birth of Kara on May 20, 2005.

**Nicki (BA '95, MA '98 Wiens)** and Andrew **Cook** announce the birth of twins, Micah Andrew and Amykayla Rachel, on February 11, 2005. They join Bethany, 6, and Ellyse, 3.

**Anna (BA '96 Kattenhorn)** and David **Huffman** announce the birth of Julianna Joy on December 27, 2005. She joins brother Matthew, 3.

**Janine (BA '96 Selph)** and Todd **Jenista** announce the birth of Sophia Lynn on October 6, 2005. She weighed 9 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 20 inches long. Janine plans to take a break from teaching to stay home with Sophia and work on her master's degree.

**Jami Cozby (BA '97 Hastings)** and husband Roland announce the birth of Caden Manning on November 6, 2005. He weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19 inches long. He joins Claire, 4, and Abigail, 2.

**Jennifer (BA '97 Massey)** and Mark **Lloyd** announce the birth of David Chester on September 22, 2005. He weighed 8 lbs., 5.5 oz., and was 20 inches long.

**Rony (BA '97)** and Elke **Juliano** announce the birth of Michael Andreas on November 24, 2005.

**Albert (BA '98)** and **Laura (BA '97 Strauss) Pando** announce the birth of Annika Noelle on September 3, 2005. Albert works as a school counselor at Chowchilla High School, and Laura is busy raising Annika and teaching writing part-time at Fresno City College.

**Amy (BA '98 DeGroot)** and Brent **Deffenbacher** announce the birth of daughter Paige Marley on September 27, 2005. She was 7 pounds, 11 ounces, and 19-1/2 inches long. She joins brother Blake, 3-1/2. The family has recently moved back to Fresno where Brent is the new spiritual formation pastor at Northwest Church.

**Julie (BA '98 Ancheta)** and Brent **Leaman** announce the birth of Liliana on August 13, 2005.

**Michael (BA '98)** and **Amy (BA '00 Penner) Burton** announce the birth of Josiah Samuel James on August 29, 2005.

**Paul (TC '98)** and **Candi (BA '95 Baldwin) Reimer** announce the birth of son Aaron Phillip on October 11, 2005. He joins brother Dylan and sister Sydney.

**Melissa (BA '99 Walterscheid)** and Jason **Culver** announce the birth of daughter Reese on October 10, 2005. She joins Rachel and Kohen.

**Trisha (BA '99 Woods)** and Oscar **Hirschhorn** announce the birth of twin sons Houston and Holden on August 31, 2005. Trisha is a guidance/learning specialist at Sanger High School. Oscar is FPU men's baseball coach.

**Ben (BA '00)** and **Michelle (BA '99 Miller) Higgins** announce the birth of Olivia Claire Higgins on October 9, 2005. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 20-1/4 inches long.

**Brian (BA '00)** and **Shandra (BA '99, MA '04 Snook) Penner** announce the birth of daughter Janae Grace on July 7, 2005.

**Heather (MA '00)** and **Chip (BA '03) Apgar** announce the birth of Aidan Alexander on August 22, 2003. He joins brother Kieran. Heather is a school counselor and Chip is a water resource analyst.

**Katie (BA '00 Pannarale)** and Eric **Fries** announce the birth of Jonathan Luis on October 15, 2005. He joins brother Matthew, 2.

**Scott (BA '00)** and **Michelene (TC '96) Fitzgerald** announce the birth of daughter Téa Quinn on October 5, 2005. She weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 20 inches long. She joins Savannah, 6-1/2. Their son Caleb passed away on February 6, 2005, following complications from surgery. Scott is a financial planner with Primerica and Michelene is overseeing home school students.

**Andy (BA '01)** and **Lindsay (BA '00 Lee) Haussler** announce the birth of Joy Elizabeth on April 30, 2005.

**Stacey (BA '01, Wright)** and Shawn **Thomure** announce the birth of Haley Anne, now 3-1/2, on June 25, 2002, and Rebecca Lynn, 1, on November 2, 2004.

**Mariann (BA '02 Simpson)** and Paul **Perez** announce the birth of Isaac on March 20, 2004.

**Romee (FS '02)** and Scott **McAdams** announce the birth of Gavin Thomason June 29, 2005. He joins Kaity and Chloe.

**Natalie (BA '03 Askew)** and Justin **Aase** announce the birth of Elijah on January 31, 2005.

**Tanya (SC '03 Blomgren)** and Doug **Martin** announce the birth of Tyler James on October 5, 2005. He weighed 9 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 22 inches long.

**Tanya (BA '03 Hunter)** and Matthew **Kable** announce the birth of Timothy Michael on October 4, 2005. They would love to hear from classmates.

**Gary Ribeiro (BA '04)** and wife Michelle announce the birth of Jacob David on September 20, 2005. Jacob weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 19-1/2 inches long. He joins Danielle, Matthew and Tyson.

**Tina (FS '05 Fletcher)** and Jamie **Houston** announce the birth of Jeremiah Marshawn on June 4, 2005.

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Jonas Ybarra (FS '68)** is retiring after 36 years in education and risk management. He is starting an investment and insurance business with Capital Choice Financial Services in McAllen and Manchaca, Texas.

**Larry (AA '72)** and **Shirley (BA '88, MA '03 Saubert) Esau** announce that Shirley is lead faculty for the education college at University of Phoenix, River Park, Fresno. She oversees faculty in the master's and credentialing programs and teaches classes in the master's of education program.

**Sherra (BA '72 Kelley)** and **Aram Garabedian** announce that Sherra went back to school after turning 50 to earn her multiple subject teaching credential. She is in her third year teaching first grade after starting out teaching a first-second-grade combo her first year. They celebrated their 30th anniversary and traveled to San Simeon and Death Valley during spring break.

**Dee (FS '73 Gaede)** and **Roger Patrick** announce Dee is office coordinator at First Mennonite Church in Reedley, works as a manager's assistant at the World Handcraft/Mennonite Quilt Center in Reedley and helps in the office at her home church, Grace Community Church, Sanger. Roger is a welder at Ganduglia Trucking Company, Fresno.

**Darrel (BA '79)** and **Catherine Cox** announce that Darrel started cross-country coaching again after a 17-year absence. He was hired at Pentucket High School in West Newbury, Mass., in the fall of 2005. The boy's team record was 7-5 and the girl's team record 8-4. The number one boy was league champion, placing eighth at the Foot Locker

Championships in the sophomore race in Van Courtland Park, New York City. Darrel lost 16 pounds over the season.

**Debbie (BA '86 Rogalsky)** and **Rick Linman**, Kingsburg, announce that Debbie received the Alternative Education Teacher of the Year award in August 2005. She has been teaching in the Alternative Education program for 17 years and currently teaches in the Kings Canyon Unified School District.

**Don Warkentine (BA '89)**, a member of the Fresno Pacific University Board of Trustees since March 2004, has been appointed to the FPU Foundation Board effective March 3, 2006. He is a partner in Daniel, Towle & Warkentine, accountants. His wife is **Carolyn (BA '92 Wiens) Warkentine**.

**Tiffany Friesen (BA '92 MA '00)** received tenure as a full-time mathematics faculty at Fresno City College after eight years at Central High School. She continues to work with the San Joaquin Valley Math Project, Fresno County Office of Education (Math on Call), Fresno Pacific University and College Community Church: Mennonite Brethren.

**Ronit (BA '94 Klipp)** and **Tom Ricoy** have been traveling, volunteering and studying abroad since the fall of 2004. They are currently in Spain, but will move permanently to Austin, Texas, in July of 2006. If there are any alumni in Austin, they would love to meet them. The best way to reach Tom and Ronit is by email at [ronitricoy@yahoo.com](mailto:ronitricoy@yahoo.com).

**Andrew (BA '95)** and **Rosangela (BA'96 Esau) Wisley** graduated from Framingham State College with master's degrees in international education. Andrew continues to teach fourth grade at the international school of Curitiba and Rosangela opened a catering business.

**Melissa (BA '95 Whaley) Kisich** has been the office manager at her church, First Mennonite, Phoenix.

**Kevin (BA '96)** and **Cynthia (BA '99 Young) McPhaill** announce that Kevin is the executive vice president and chief banking officer of Sierra Bancorp, and its banking subsidiary, Bank of the Sierra. He obtained an MBA from California State University, Fresno, and will graduate

from the South West Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University in June 2006.

**Audrey Hindes (BA '01)** had an essay, part of the FPU Scholars Speak series, in the December 3, 2005, Valley Voices section of *The Fresno Bee*. She also presented "Symposium on Old Testament Themes and Modern Cinema" at FPU October 23, 2005, and at First Mennonite Church, Reedley, January 15, 2006. She did a talk titled "Fair Trade and Beyond" January 27, 2006, at Reedley Peace Center.

**Andrey Ivanov (BA '01)** entered Yale University's Ph.D. program in history. He earned his master's in sacred theology from Yale Divinity School.

**Corey Sparks (BA '01)** entered the University of Chicago's M.A. program in humanities.

**Alissa Robison (FS '02)** earned her B.A. from California State University, Sacramento, in liberal studies/music and is working on her credential for multiple subjects. She works for the Sacramento County Office of Education teaching in juvenile hall and court system schools as well as severely handicapped students throughout the county.

**David Rainbow (BA '02)** is in his second year at Drew University, completing a Ph.D. in modern European history and literature. Rainbow entered Drew with a partial fellowship, but was awarded a full fellowship and additional benefits.

**Douglas Noll (MA '02)** published "Neuropsychology of Conflict: Implications for Peacemaking" in *The Psychology of Resolving Global Conflicts: From War to Peace, Volume 1, Nature vs. Nurture*. The book, part of a three-volume set, was edited by Mari Fitzduff and Chris E. Stout and published in 2005 by Praeger Security International.

**Nichole Mosqueda (BA '03)** is working for the University of California Cooperative Extension, Fresno, as the regional nutrition social marketing director for the California Nutrition Network.

**Tony Calvillo (BA '03)** is working as a pilot for the Tule River Ranch in Tulare and as a flight instructor in Visalia and Hanford.



**Bret Bailey (BA '04)** applied through San Francisco State University for the visually impaired credential program and was hired by Kings County Office of Education on an emergency credential. He says: "The rewards of working with the students cannot be described in words. The expressions on faces of the blind and visually impaired when they are introduced to a new piece of technology that makes their lives a little easier to manage is something that money cannot buy. I thank God daily for my mother, my friends, FPU for their guidance and for the job He has placed me in. ... I pray that all things are well with you and will always have fond memories of FPU!"

**John (BA '05) and Athenia (BA '04 Chastain) Hetherington** live in Tulare. Athenia is working for in her hometown for Porterville Unified School District as a four-six grade physical education teacher and loving it. She also coaches cross-country and track at Monache High School, where she graduated.

**Michelle Burton (B.A. '04)** is completing her second year of an M.A. program in classics at the University of Arizona. Burton is the first classics major to advance to graduate studies in the field.

**Olga Glukhoy (BA '04)** is in her first year as a teacher, teaching first grade at Mountain View Elementary School in Clovis Unified School District.

## MARRIAGES

**Guadalupe (BA '95 Garcia) and Mario Andrade** married on July 31, 2004 in Laton.

**Melissa (BA '95 Whaley) and Bill Kisich** married on October 1, 2005.

**Caty (BA '99 Massey) and Alex Perez** married on September 17, 2005, in Fresno. The couple owns a home in Fresno and both are employed at California State University, Fresno.

**Hillary (BA '99 Fontaine) and Eric Flowers** married on November 25, 2005.

**Ara (BA '00) and Tricia (BA '00, MA '04 Wichert) Anspikian** married on May 14, 2005. They live in Redlands, where Ara is completing his residency

in psychiatry at Loma Linda University. Ara recently graduated with top honors from Loma Linda with his M.D. Tricia's MA is in education school counseling and she is currently substitute teaching.

**Jennifer (BA '02 Chapman) and Jonathan Berling** married on May 21, 2005.

**Jill (MA '02 Gomas) and Glen Faison** married on July 2, 2005.

**Jared (BA '03) and Jessica (AA '04 Smith) Dunn** married on November 27, 2005.

**Jonathan (BA '03) and Lisa (BA '04 Koelewyn) Maher** married January 14, 2006, in Hanford. Both are employed in the FPU Admissions Office.

**Diane (BA '04 Klopp) and Adam Harper** married on June 12, 2005.

**John (BA '05) and Andrea (AA '05 Baral) Posten** married August 20, 2005. John hopes to become a doctor or physician's assistant. They plan on going to Africa in the next couple of years on a mission trip.

**Katie (FS '05 Koop) and Ben Friesen** married August 13, 2005 in Fresno. They moved to Illinois, where Ben works as a youth pastor.

## DEATHS

**Ruth (FS '64 Newfield) Nachtigal** lost husband Marlin Nachtigal in a sea plane crash off the coast of Miami on December 19, 2005. He is also survived by daughters Dayna Reed and **Lisa Johansen (BA '94)**. Lisa's husband, Eric Johansen, died in the same accident.

**Reed and Rhonda (BA '79 Greilich) Pope** regret to inform that their daughter Laura, 24, died in a car accident on December 27, 2005. Son Brian is a current FPU student.

**Connie Rothell (MA '00)**, wife of Glen and mother to Devon and Ansley Rothell, died December 9, 2005.

**Billy Roy Ratzlaff**, 66, died January 16, 2005. He was a member of the psychology faculty from 1972-1979. He was also a pastor, businessman and social worker. He had a B.A. from Tabor College and a master's degree from North Texas State University and attended Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary for three years. He is survived by daughters Joy Sullivan and Melody Benway, brothers Jerry and Kenny, sister Margie Nantz and grandchildren Anna, Joslyn, Brynn and Audrey as well as nieces and nephews. His wife, Sharon, died a month earlier.

**Roberto Oviedo** died December 22, 2005. He was a member of the facilities management staff from 2001-2005.

**James Wiebe (BA '67)** died on May 9, 2005. He taught for more than 20 years at the California State University, Los Angeles. He wrote nine books and numerous papers and gave workshops and media productions. Wiebe held a master's degree in French from California State University, Fullerton, and a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from Arizona State University. Wiebe is survived by his wife, Mallory, and two children, daughter Meara and son Nathan.

IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI

NAME			
ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
HOME TELEPHONE	WORK TELEPHONE		
EMAIL	GRADUATION YEAR		
OCCUPATION			
WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU? Information for Pacific Magazine:			

## COMING TO FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

# NAIA National Outdoor Track & Field Championships

May 25-27, 2006

- More participants than any other National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national competition
- Over 1,000 athletes from 100 colleges and universities
- 52 events

## FIELD *of* DREAMS

FPU is expanding its athletic facilities through the Field of Dreams campaign. The next step is a baseball stadium. The spring of 2006 brought the boys of summer to the university, ready to begin a new tradition of achievement. Step up to the plate and make this Field of Dreams a reality by calling 559-453-2080.

For meet results, features and more go to  
[www.athletics.fresno.edu](http://www.athletics.fresno.edu)  
[www.naia.collegesports.com](http://www.naia.collegesports.com)

To volunteer, call 559-453-2009.



### THE CASE FOR SUPPORT

For several years Fresno Pacific University has been proceeding toward the completion of the track/soccer facility. Our selection as host of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Outdoor Track and Field National Championships in 2006 and 2007 brings excitement and urgency to the task. We must light the track. It is also our desire to complete the stadium and parking lot.

The Field of Dreams Campaign will meet the needs of the 1,100 athletes and 400 coaches who will participate in the NAIA national championships. The beautiful new complex it provides will also serve the growing number of students and community groups that look to FPU for facilities.

During the past seven years, the traditional undergraduate population at Fresno Pacific University has increased by over 60 percent. These young men and women are the students most likely to live on campus and make extensive use of its facilities. The university has already added AIMS Hall of Mathematics and Science and Steinert Campus Center, directed a major remodeling of Alumni Hall and built the seven-court Harold and Betty Haak Tennis Complex. The success of these expansions creates confidence in the current campaign.



## Athletes earn NAIA All-America honors

### Burns, Rumsey, Clayton repeat

Elizabeth Burns, Jessica Rumsey and Maggie Clayton have done it again. The trio earned NAIA All-America Scholar Athlete honors from the NAIA for the second consecutive season.

Burns, a liberal studies major, and Rumsey, a natural science major, are both seniors from Clovis and members of FPU's women's soccer team. They were the first to earn the award in the program's five-year history. Clayton, a senior natural science major from Bakersfield, posted a career-best 5,000 meters mark of 20:03 at the NAIA Region II Championship at Woodward Park on November 5. It was the final race of her four-year cross country career.

The NAIA All-America Scholar Athlete award is open to athletes in their junior or senior season who have made a significant athletic contribution to their team and earned a grade-point average of 3.50 or higher (on a 4.00 scale).

Jared Dugger, a senior from Fresno and defender on the men's soccer team, was named to the NAIA All-America Third Team. Dugger anchored a defense that helped the Sunbirds to a share of the Golden State Athletic Conference championship with an unexpected 8-2-0 record in a "rebuilding" year. Sophomore striker Amaury Nunes (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), who led FPU in scoring with 17 goals and 35 points, earned honorable mention.

## Volleyball team wins conference, region

### Falls to champ in NAIA nationals

The 2005 season was another banner effort for the Sunbird volleyball team, which won its sixth consecutive Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) championship and third consecutive National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Region II championship. Overall, the program has acquired 12 GSAC and 10 NAIA regional banners for the Special Events Center wall.

The team posted a 38-1 season record. The loss was to GSAC-rival, and eventual national champion, California Baptist in the NAIA quarterfinals.

Five Sunbirds earned NAIA All-American honors. Senior middle blocker Lorena Zuleta and freshman setter Shu Liu were both named to the first team, Lira Xavier made the second team, Marin Shilling the third team and Thais Julio honorable mention.

## Baseball opens with a win

Friday, January 27, 2006, was a historic day as the first FPU intercollegiate baseball team took the field at Clovis East High School. The Sunbirds got their inaugural season of to a great start with an 11-1 win over Patten University.



From left: Will Friesen, interim dean of the School of Humanities, Religion and Social Science, representing the faculty; Eric Thiessen, alumnus and former member of the 1989 Sunbird club baseball team; Tim Franz, alumnus, FPU foundation board member and Sunbird Association member; and student body president Tim Haydock, each throw the first pitch.

## Sunbirds split tennis opener

### Both squads nationally ranked

The first flock of Sunbird tennis players in 30 years split its opening match February 13, 2006, against Azusa Pacific University. The contest was played at home on the Harold and Betty Haak Tennis Complex.

The FPU women, ranked No. 2 in the preseason NAIA poll, defeated the fifth-ranked women Cougars 6-3. FPU's men's squad, ranked No. 10, fell 6-3 to Azusa, whose men's team is ranked No. 1 and won last year's national championship.



Jelena Pandzic, Croatia, won her match 6-1, 6-0



Volleyball team with NAIA Region II Championship plaque.

Front from left: Shailey Jones, Janelle Jackson, Samantha Weatherly, Lira Xavier, Allanah Munson, Julie De Jager, Shu Liu. Back from left: Dennis Janzen (head coach), Todd Nord (assistant coach), Marin Shilling, Lorena Zuleta, Gera Bahr, Thais Julio, Brittany Pierce, Deanna Richards, Ellen Foerster, Katie Wild, Tracy (Ainger) Schulte (assistant coach), Matt Whitaker (assistant coach), Hu Xiao Feng.

# PLANNED GIVING

*"For us it was  
a win-win  
situation."*

Henry & Kathryn Rogalski  
Charitable Remainder Unitrust donors



**A simple way to meet  
your family's needs today,  
and Fresno Pacific's needs  
in the future.**

- Reduce taxes
- Add to retirement income
- Assure the future of your assets
- Support a Christian cause you believe in

Learn more about the benefits of charitable remainder unitrusts and other planned giving opportunities!

Contact Mark Deffenbacher, executive director,  
Fresno Pacific University Foundation.  
559-281-2374  
[mdeffen@fresno.edu](mailto:mdeffen@fresno.edu)  
[www.fresno.edu/foundation](http://www.fresno.edu/foundation)



1717 South Chestnut Avenue  
Fresno, California 93702-4709

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #2561  
FRESNO, CA